REMARKS

Claims 1, 10, and 14-17 have been amended. Claims 1-17 remain pending in the application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 10-13 due to a minor antecedent basis problem. Applicants have amended claims 10-13 to correct this problem. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 10-12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Pat. No. 6,333,979 B1, issued to Bondi *et al* (hereinafter Bondi).

According to the present invention, as defined by independent claims 10 and 16, for example, a storing unit within a management device stores management information to classify each network apparatus based on a combination type including business entities providing service to network apparatuses and costs related to the providing of the service to the network apparatuses. *See* Specification, page 10, lines 13-16.

According to Bondi, it teaches an apparatus and method for routing calls to communication processing centers based on an optimal destination plan. Bondi provides an exemplary diagram of historical call volume data, which is collected and categorized based on one or more predetermined categories of interest. *See* Bondi, column 7, lines 15-17.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 10 and 16 of the present invention are not anticipated by Bondi, as Bondi does not teach or suggest the features of the present invention. In particular, Bondi does not teach a storing unit storing management information to classify each network apparatus based on a combination type "wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of business entities providing service to network apparatuses and corresponding costs of each of the business entities." Rather, according to Bondi and particularly the section of Bondi cited by the Examiner, it merely provides disclosure relating to a conglomeration of data. As admitted by the Examiner, Bondi discloses that a destination plan specifies a *service* provided.

In Bondi, it appears no information is provided regarding a *storing unit* that stores management information classifying a network apparatus based on a combination of *business entiies providing a service* to network apparatuses and corresponding costs of each of the business entities. More specifically, Bondi provides neither a storing unit nor a combination including both a *business entity providing a service* and costs. Fig. 6 of Bondi is simply an example of historical call volume data. A storing unit is not indicated. Although Bondi provides that input parameters in a linear programming model may be unit costs that could be

7

communication processing center dependent, the communication processing center is not a business entity that provides service to network apparatuses. The communication processing center merely serves as a call center. *See* Bondi, column 3, lines 19-25.

Therefore, independent claims 10 and 16 are patentable over Bondi for the reasons offered above. As dependent claims 11-12 depend from independent claim 10, they are patentable over Bondi for at least the reasons offered above with respect to independent claim 10.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-9, 14-15 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bondi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,064,653, issued to Farris (hereinafter Farris).

Independent claim 1 recites, in relevant part, "a combination type. . . wherein said combination type is a type of a combination of business entities providing service to network apparatuses and corresponding shared costs of each of the business entities." Bondi does not teach or suggest the feature of the present invention identified by the above-quoted language. In Bondi, no information appears to be disclosed or suggested regarding *a storing unit* that stores management information classifying a network apparatus based on a combination of *business entities providing a service* . . . and corresponding shared costs of each of the business entities.

Likewise, in Farris, no information is disclosed or suggested regarding the feature of the present invention identified by the above-quoted language of the claims. According to our understanding of Farris, it is directed to voice calls between two end location gateway servers of a data internetwork. Farris merely states that more expensive costs are shared by multiplexing diverted calls into a single ISDN or T1 channel. Farris does not provide disclosure regarding a storing unit storing management information to classify each network apparatus based on a combination type as identified above, nor does Farris suggest such a feature. Therefore, independent claims 1, 14 and 15 are patentable over Bondi in view of Farris, as neither Bondi, nor Farris, taken individually, or in combination, teaches or suggests the feature of the present invention identified by the above-quoted language of the claims. As claims 2-9 depend from independent claim 1, these claims are patentable over the references for at least the reasons offered above with respect to claim 1.

Regarding claim 17, it appears as though the Examiner has misread the claim. In particular, on page 10, the Examiner states that "[the sharing cost] is taught by Farris as managing the sharing cost to each network apparatus based on the routing." In relevant part,

claim 17 reads, ". . . managing the sharing of the cost of said distributed network apparatus by the business entity providing the added service and a business entity providing an existing service." Thus, the cost of a service is shared by the business entity providing the added service and a business entity providing an existing service.

As admitted by the Examiner, Bondi does not disclose information relating to sharing of the cost by a business entity providing added service and a business entity providing an existing service. Likewise, Farris does not teach or suggest information relating to sharing of the costs in the manner identified in the claim. Rather, Farris merely mentions sharing of more expensive costs. No information is disclosed or suggested regarding how the costs are shared, for example, sharing between a business entity providing added service and a business entity providing an existing service. As costs can be shared in a plurality of ways, a simple statement regarding sharing costs is not necessarily tantamount to or related to sharing costs in the manner identified by the language of claim 17.

In light of the foregoing, claim 17 is patentable over Bondi in view of Farris, as neither Bondi, nor Farris, taken individually, or in combination, teaches or suggests the feature of claim 17 identified by the above-quoted language.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.
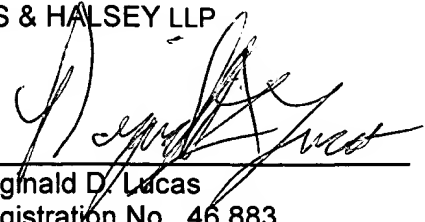
If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _19 Apr. 05_

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